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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 24, 2005

VOL. 129

No. 12

06 2005

Miss. Baptists continue tsunami relief

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A second team of Mississippi Baptists has returned from Southeast Asia, where they provided disaster relief services in one of the areas hardest hit by the history-making tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people in December of last year.

Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said the Southern Baptist tsunami relief effort will soon move from addressing the immediate needs of the disaster's survivors to planning long-term recovery operations. Mississippi Baptists will be heavily involved in the recovery phase, he said.

"We will need volunteers for some time to come," he said. Specific areas where the teams have served and will serve in the future are not being disclosed for security reasons. Also, some governments in the area are beginning to clamp down on the large volume of relief workers who have flooded the affected countries.

As relief supplies stack up at ports around southeast Asia due to heavy donations and transportation problems, the most urgent need at present is monetary gifts to

finance the long-range efforts aimed at helping survivors rebuild their lives, say disaster relief leaders on the scene.

A special relief fund has been established at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and tax-deductible donations are being accepted. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with tsunami relief noted on the memo line, and mailed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, ATTN: Tsunami Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Mississippi Baptists have thus far donated more than \$311,000 to the tsunami relief fund. People who are donating to tsunami relief have been cautioned by charity experts to be sure they are donating to organizations that will utilize the money for the intended purpose; fully 100% of the funds donated to the MBCB special



HELP FOR HELPLESS — Although the devastating December tsunami in southeast Asia has faded from the headlines, fifth graders at Brandon Elementary School in Brandon have not given up on helping the victims of the historic disaster. Students who have led a donations drive and their teachers are (from left) Megan Price; Jordan Laster; Andrew Wilkes; Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, accepting the donations; Donna Evans; and school Principal Sue Townsend. Behind them are "Have a Heart" stickers that signify students' willingness to donate to tsunami relief. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

STILL REELING — A man walks through the rubble of homes and businesses near the coast in Sri Lanka. Community reconstruction projects will be a part of Southern Baptist tsunami aid efforts for many months to come, relief specialists say. Mississippi Baptists will play a large part in that effort. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)



tsunami relief fund will be used in the Mississippi Baptist/Southern Baptist response to the tsunami disaster.

Mississippi Baptists who would like to volunteer to assist tsunami survivors through the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit should contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org. Specialized training and immunizations may be required.

Southern Baptist volunteers who have gone to Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and other tsunami-ravaged countries continue to bring home glimpses of what they've seen and heard. Among their experiences:

- Villagers kept walking up to Baptist volunteers and asking, "You're Christians, right?" Then they would come again, asking the same question. They seemed genuinely surprised that the Christian volunteers they met — the first Christians they had ever seen — were so opposite of what they had been taught about Christians all their lives.

- A Buddhist monk watched local Christians helping any and all tsunami survivors, regardless of their religion. He told a pastor, "I used to turn my head the other way in hatred when I walked by your church, but now I see the real heart of the church." He went on to say he owned enough land on which to build 10 houses — and that he would give it to the pastor if

Christians wanted to build houses for those who lost their homes in the tsunami.

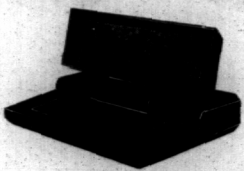
- Living in a home with mud ankle-deep, sleeping on a bed just high enough to escape the water, a father and son didn't know what to do. How could they put their lives back together when the father was too old — and the son too young — to get all the mud and destroyed belongings out of the house?

A group of volunteers arrived and began to work with the father's permission. They took everything out of the house, saving what they could, then started shoveling mud amid the heat and foul smell. Some time later, one of the floors became visible. The looks on the faces of the man and his son began to change. Hope began to replace despair. They went to work beside the team. The son, no more than 12 years of age, worked just as hard as any adult on the team. By the end of the day, the mud was cleaned out of the house. The father sat speechless trying to choke back the tears of joy for the restoration of hope that he had been offered through the sweat of strangers.

- After losing everything, some people don't know where to begin. Others begin where they can. Pak is one of the latter. All that is left of his house is a concrete foundation, yet he has recovered a table and a mat to place on his property. All that is left of his village is rubble, but he intends to move back and resume work as a fisherman.

Baptist Press contributed to the article.

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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
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VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 12
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Hail, Prince of Peace!

Every generation likely believes that they lived or are living at the pinnacle of man's inhumanity to his fellow man. The Civil War, where advanced weaponry met outdated tactics, would be one extreme example. There was World War I and the widespread use of devastating chemical warfare. For sheer volume of brutality on a global scale, World War II would be difficult to match.

Today's world situation most probably ranks somewhere close to the top, however, because of the global targeting of innocent non-combatants. We live in a time that allows stateless terrorist groups to move about in the shadows, picking off children.

Nary a day goes by without another report of a homicide bomber somewhere destroying not only himself but everyone around him. Humanitarian workers are slaughtered in cowardly drive-by ambushes. Radical fundamentalists applaud the murders of more than 3,000 people killed on 9/11, and declare that God is glorified by such acts.

Our own home-grown terrorists feel no sympathy for the innocent, in the case of Timothy McVeigh even going to his execution cynically declaring the babies murdered in his bombing of Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal Building were nothing more than "collateral damage."

Meanwhile, the streets of many of our great American metropolises are ruled by ruthless gangs willing to do anything to anybody who stands between them and their wildly lucrative drug business. Police are often outmanned and outgunned, and considered by these people as just another obstacle to be eliminated by whatever means necessary.

Has human life even been worth less? Has human depravity ever gone lower? Have we ever been farther away from our Creator and

Father? Perhaps, but there's no doubt the world is in bad shape at the moment.

If we ever needed a Prince of Peace, we need Him this Easter.

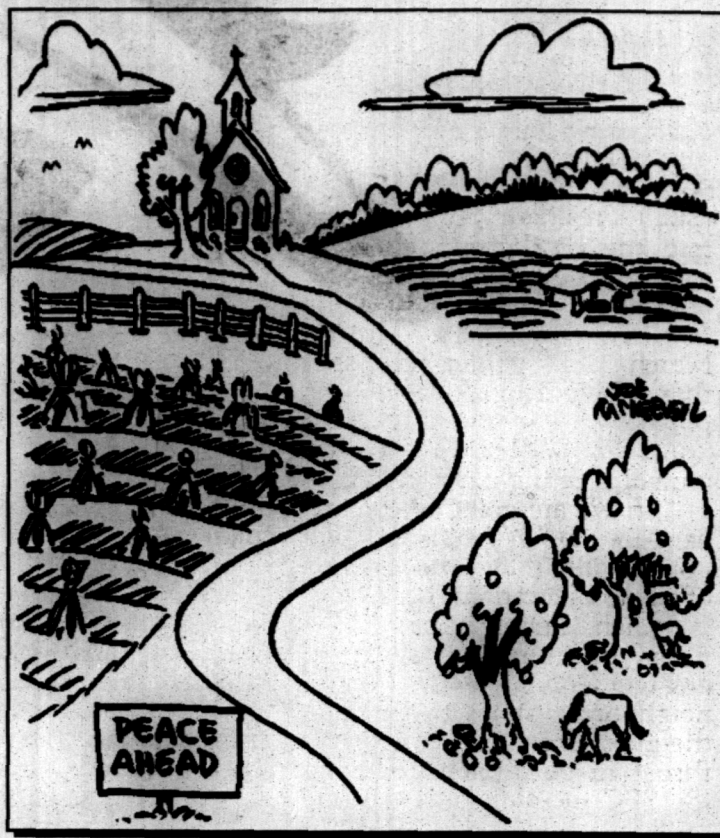
We need a Prince of Peace to still the violence that destroys so many people — many of whom go into eternity without salvation. We need a Prince of Peace to compel combatants to lay down their weapons so food and medicine and the Gospel can get to the people who need it most, because that's inarguably more important than political grievances.

We need a Prince of Peace to teach us that the differences setting us against one another are only skin deep, and that our loving Heavenly Father loves us all. We need a Prince of Peace to show us how to turn the other cheek, and how two wrongs don't make a right.

We need a Prince of Peace to demonstrate for us how we should raise our children and treat our elders, because we no longer seem to have that knowledge. We need a Prince of Peace to intercede for the very young and the very old, who we despise so much for the inconvenience they create.

We need a Prince of Peace to help us overcome the pettiness in our small lives, and invite us to become a part of something much bigger and infinitely more important than ourselves. We need a Prince of Peace to keep us focused on the main thing and deliver us from the snares and distractions of the Evil One: money, power, sex, ego, and self-centeredness, to name only a few.

Thank God we have been given just such a Prince of Peace in Jesus Christ — a Prince of Peace who, because he walked among us as



Happy Easter 2005

one of us, understands us better that we understand ourselves. Thank God we have a Prince of Peace who serves even today as the perfect example of what our Heavenly Father expects of us. Thank God that our Prince of Peace is sufficient to defeat the Evil One and save us from an eternity of damnation.

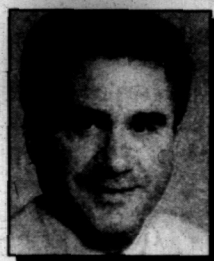
On this Easter, let us lift our voices in praise to God and Son, and pray that all the people of the world will one day soon know the peace we know that has been so freely given to us by the Savior.

Hail, Prince of Peace!

GUEST OPINION:

Remembering a special martyr

By Erich Bridges
International Mission Board
Richmond, Va.



and joyful servant. She packed a lifetime of loving Jesus into the nine years she knew Him as Savior before her death at age 38.

So who, exactly, was Karen Watson? One tough gal, to hear some tell it. Before becoming a believer she ran a pool hall. Later, as a detention officer with the Kern County (Calif.) Sheriff's Department, she handled potentially violent jail inmates and trained other deputies to quell disorder — by force if necessary.

Once Karen gave her heart to Jesus, He began the patient process of softening her — a process revealed in the journals she kept throughout her nine-year walk with God. They are a series of love letters from God to Karen — and from Karen to God, recording her pursuit of God with all of her mind, body

and soul. That was her life's mission, after all, and not church work or mission work.

"I'm not going to give anything to my Lord that will cost me nothing," she wrote, way back in 1998.



Watson

When she was assigned to help coordinate post-war relief projects in Iraq by the International Mission Board, she sold her house and car and gave away most of her other possessions — whatever wouldn't fit in a large duffel bag. Threats against foreign civilians were increasing. She personally experienced several close calls in the Baghdad area. Karen left Iraq for several months. "Lord, in all my weakness I need Your strength for the future," she wrote in her journal.

Karen was convinced it was time to return to Iraq. Shortly before she left, she bought a beautiful gold ring. "It looked like a wedding band," says her friend. "I wore a wedding band before I got married, too, to remind me that Christ was my husband, that I wasn't alone." She asked Karen if that was what she had in mind.

"Yes," Karen replied with a radiant smile. "I guess that's it." Only Karen and her beloved Bridegroom know all the reasons why she returned to Iraq and why she died there, but in the end her joyful sacrifice wasn't for needy Iraqis.

It was for Jesus.

Bridges' commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Welch: bivocs crucial to SBC's future efforts

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — "Since almost half our Southern Baptist churches are led by bivocational pastors, I believe it's high time we recognize them and honor them," Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bobby Welch told the East Tennessee Bivocational Evangelism Conference.

Welch, who was among the featured speakers during March 11-12 gathering, noted that a bivocational pastor will preach during the June 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville.

"[If] we are going to evangelize America," Welch said, "it will not be without the crucial efforts of all our bivocational pastors."

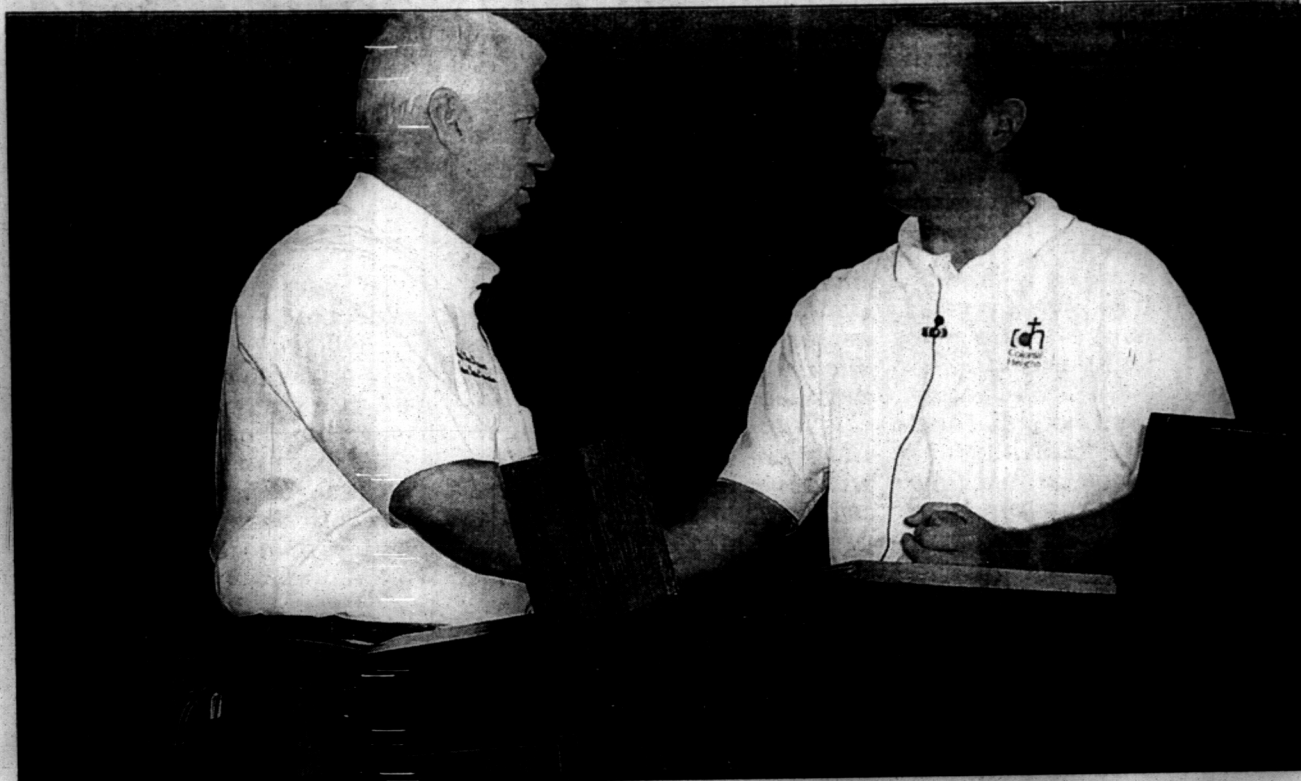
Welch currently is in the midst of numerous speaking engagements in Tennessee and neighboring states to promote the Everyone Can! Evangelistic thrust to be launched during the SBC meeting to reach one million baptisms by the time of the 2006 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

Also afoot for June: a push to involve 10,000 volunteers in the Crossover evangelistic efforts held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting.

The bivocational evangelism conference, held at Knoxville's Grace Church, was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and organized by bivocational pastor Ray Gilder, who also serves as bivocational ministries specialist for the state convention.

The weekend conference offered a variety of breakout sessions on topics such as Getting Your Church to Pray, Keeping New Converts in the Flock, and Leading Your Church to be Evangelistic.

Some bivocational pastors "get a 'Lone Ranger' mentality, but they need the fellowship, they need encouragement, and they need to be around their peers," Gilder told Baptist Press.



MISSISSIPPI VISIT — Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch (left), pastor of First Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., is welcomed by Mark Anderson, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, during a 2004 visit to the church's new campus in Ridgeland. Welch, who was on a 50-state tour to promote his Everyone Can! Evangelistic outreach, recently told a conference of bivocational pastors that they are an important part of Southern Baptists' evangelism process. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Many of those attending the conference gave up a day off from work. "These guys don't come to our seminars and conferences just to coast. They come to get," Gilder said. "They've made an investment of time to be here, and they'll take what they learn and put it in practice in their pastorates."

Time management is the number one issue for bivocational pastors, Gilder said, noting, "We juggle job, church and family." In some cases, it's "sad to say that the family gets the short end of the stick," said Gilder, pastor of Farmington Church in Lewisburg, Tenn.

The bivocational pastor's tendency is to be so eager to do a

good job with the church that he will neglect his wife and children. "But probably the best message they'll ever preach is their family and their home," Gilder said. "So, I go heavy on telling our men to put their families before the church. Some Baptists think that's unspiritual, but I believe the only person that comes before family is God."

Gilder said he divides his waking hours evenly among home, church, and job, spending about 30 hours at each per week.

"You might come to my house on Tuesday afternoon and see me working in the garden with my wife," he said, "but that's the way bivocational work goes. We have to juggle everything in order to get anything done."

Spending time with spouses is vitally important, Gilder said, explaining, "She needs fellowship, and she needs to know the feelings she may be having are pretty common — resentment, bitterness, frustration, and questions like, 'Is this what God really wants us to do?'"

Retreats sponsored by the state convention help address these and other issues, said Gilder, who noted their growing popularity, saying he's looking now for a larger facility for next year.

So many couples in ministry need some fresh wind; they need to be encouraged, refreshed and challenged, he said, calling the retreat sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention "one of the best investments a church can make."

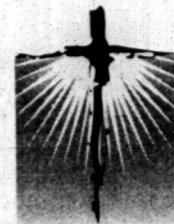
One of the keys to successful bivocational ministry is to be sure it's God's will, he said.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is beginning a new, focused program in 2005 to reach out to the state's bivocational pastors with support and resources.

For more information, contact Dale Holloway, bivocational specialist for the board, at 1758 Florence-Byram Road, Florence, MS 39073. Telephone: (601) 845-2107 or (601) 845-6496. E-mail: bivoldr@aol.com.

'Everyone Can' site opened

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — EveryoneCan.net, a new website to support the Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge evangelism blitz planned for June 17-19 in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is now online. The evangelistic thrust is a partnership of LifeWay Christian Resources, the North American Mission Board, SBC Executive Committee and Tennessee Baptist Convention. LifeWay will serve as the lead entity for the Crossover Nashville Door-to-Door part of the event June 18, preceding the SBC's June 21-22 annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Approximately 200 area churches are expected to serve as hosts to the 10,000 volunteers for the outreach. Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch's Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism tour has heightened enlistment for the effort as he has challenged record numbers to participate in the Door-to-Door thrust. Churches that plan to attend can explore several evangelism training resources, including Share Jesus Without Fear, The Net, GROW, or Sunday School/FAITH Evangelism Strategy, via the new website. A complete schedule for the day also is available, along with a word from Welch. Registration and hotel information also can be accessed. Jay Johnston, director of LifeWay's evangelism and discipleship area, said "the 10,000-plus coming and participating in the Door-to-Door evangelism and the additional folks that come and participate in other Crossover efforts have the potential to ignite and to show that everyone can do something for the cause of Christ and the obedience of the Great Commission." In addition to the www.everyonecan.net website, registration information and other details about the 2005 Crossover Nashville Door-to-Door plans can be obtained by calling toll-free (877) 324-8498.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 24, 2005

VOL. 129

NO. 12

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department celebrates its 50th anniversary with a mass choir at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and an anthem commissioned for the occasion and composed by Billy Causey, Lew King, and J. Paul Williams.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist music evangelists R.L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City are invited to sing at the Monday morning session of the annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at First Church, Dallas.

50 years ago

First Church, Starkville, adds 64 new members during revival meetings, including 28 by baptism and 36 by letter. An all-time record was set in Sunday School with 1,078 present.



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

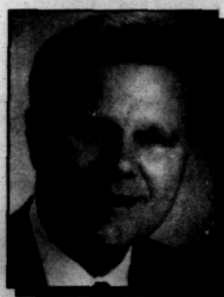
*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

In February 2000, the Medical/Dental Fellowship of Southern Baptists had their national meeting in Jackson. From across the country and from some foreign countries, medical professionals came to be a part of a weekend of encouragement, information, and inspiration here in Mississippi. It was a great time and while I trust that it proved to be a blessing to those who came, I can tell you for a certainty that it was a blessing to those of us from here that had the opportunity to attend.

John McGraw, at that time an orthopedic surgeon from Laurel, has been involved in the Fellowship from its beginnings over 20 years ago and at this Fellowship meeting served as the program chairman. While it was my privilege to be present and to visit with a number of the participants, one conversation seemed to stand out above all others.

I met and visited with a physician from Tennessee who in the course of the conversation said, "You know, I wish there was some way that our pastors and ministers could convey to our people that it is okay for Christians to die. While we all have a will to live, there comes a



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

time when we need to understand that the grace of God that enables the Christian to live differently is also available to help them die differently."

The doctor was right. Christians can live as if they will never die, and they can die as if they will live forever. Have you listened to the Apostle Paul as he said he was in that strait betwixt two, pulled between being here and serving the Lord, or going on and being cared for by the Lord? He says, "So whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." God takes the challenging experiences of life and, applying His marvelous grace to them, transforms them into good even when they look so bad. He takes all of the uncertainty and anxiety about death and turns it into a glorious victory. He uses the Christian's life for His glory and He can certainly use the Christian's death for His glory.

If you will study the death of the Lord's servant Stephen, you will come to understand that along with his life and testimony, his death spoke volumes to a hardhearted Pharisee named Saul of Tarsus. I have watched Christians live out their faith as magnificently in the face of death as they did working on Kingdom ventures. I have watched as their spirits grew stronger and their bodies grew weaker. I have seen saints whose faith increased while disease was taking away muscle mass. I have watched some of God's people gradually, gently let go of things accumulated in this life knowing that they were about to embrace their new and eternal home.

One day I was talking with an older man who, with a kind of puzzled look on his face, asked me, "Have you seen many people die?" I said, "Yes sir, I have." He said, "I've never

seen anyone die. What is it like?" I quickly took inventory of scores of dying scenes that I remembered through the years, and it occurred to me how privileged I have been to see so many Christians die with great honor and dignity. I know of no one who desires to be around those scenes. Yet, when you understand that this is so near to so much of what our Lord Jesus has promised us, you then begin to realize that when you stand alongside of folks at the edge of the Holy of Holies, beyond that last breath is to be in the presence of the Lord! It is away from pain, removed from death, and forever in the Father's house in the very presence of the Lord.

It is true: Christians can live in celebration because of Jesus, and with Jesus we can die in confidence knowing we will live in confidence. Easter is the celebration of LIFE!

**LIFE offered to us by God
LIFE provided for us by Jesus
LIFE peaceful and full
LIFE forever and unburdened**

Thanks be to God because
Jesus lives we shall live also!
HAPPY EASTER!

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Trinity Church, Philadelphia**, held a men's retreat on Feb. 25-26. Dwight Flemming of Kemper County and Jimmy Dempsey of Winston County preached. Featured speaker was Dickie Bryan. Shown are Bryan and Wayne Hill, pastor.

2. **Crossgates Church, Brandon**, invites all to their Easter worship services Mar. 27 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 11 a.m. as the church begins a four part series on heaven. For more information, call (601) 825-2562.

3. The Kardia Foundation has partnered with **Crossgates Church, Brandon**, to hold a conference at Belhaven College on Apr. 2, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., designed to enable those in the health-care profession to impact people's lives. For information call (601) 957-1260.

4. **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg**, invites the public to their two Easter services on Mar. 27; 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast hosted by the Brotherhood men; 11:00 a.m., choir presenting The Way,

The Truth, The Life, a cantata created by Dennis and Nan Allen.

5. **Eastside Church, Pearl**, will show The Passion of the Christ on Mar. 25, 7 p.m. Nursery provided.

6. **Park Haven Church, Laurel**, hosts a concert, April 9, 7:00 p.m., featuring the Next Generation with special guest New Direction from Cleveland, Tex. For more information, contact Jimmy Downs at (601) 649-5357.

7. **Park Haven Church, Laurel**, will hold an Arts and Crafts Fair on Apr. 1-2, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., one mile north of Wal-Mart. For more information, contact Vickie at (601) 649-0553 or Barbara at (601) 425-0452.

8. **North Carrollton, North Carrollton**, will present its Easter drama, Do You Know Jesus, Mar. 25 - 27, 7 p.m. Nursery will be provided. For information, call (662) 237-0047 or (662) 897-9777.

9. **Jad Jamal Khalaf**, member of **First Church, McComb**, was recently elected vice president of the Conference of Mississippi Evangelists. Khalaf, the recipient of the C.C. Randall Award for Outstanding Student in Evangelism from New Orleans Seminary, is available for revivals, youth rallies, and conferences. He may be contacted at (601) 249-0491.



Khalaf

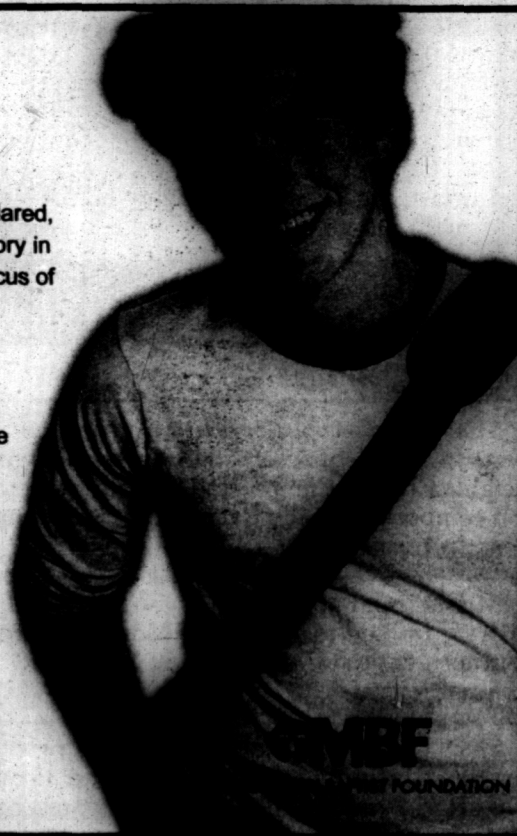
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Scholarship Ministry

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at Post Office Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (601) 292-3210, or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, www.mbcf.org/agencies/mbf. A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.



1. Bryan and Hill, Trinity Church, Philadelphia

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 24, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Spring Retreat Gulfshore Baptist Assembly April 29-30, 2005

The retreat leader will be Carl White, pastor, Highland BC, Meridian, and he'll be speaking on the theme, "Faith Care: Helping People in Times of Need."

There is no cost for members/spouses of the association. For non-members the cost is \$50. Registration begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 29, with a seafood dinner at 5:30. The retreat concludes after lunch on Saturday. For more information about the Chaplains' Association or attending the retreat, please call Elaine Smith, Evangelism Department, at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278 or E-mail esmith@mbcb.org.

STATE BIBLE DRILLS

DATE	LOCATION	REGISTRATION	DRILLS BEGIN
Tuesday April 5	McComb, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	Grenada, Emmanuel BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Thursday April 7	Tupelo, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	Tupelo, Harrisburg BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Friday April 8	Starkville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Saturday April 9	Jackson, Alta Woods BC	8:30-noon	9:00 a.m.
	Madison, Ridgecrest BC	8:30-noon	9:00 a.m.
Monday April 11	Hattiesburg, Temple BC (West)	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	Meridian, Poplar Springs Drive BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Tuesday April 12	Laurel, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Thursday April 14	Hernando BC, Hernando	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
	Gulfport, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.

For more info, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284.

"MISSISSIPPI CHRIST FOLLOWERS"

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

8 a.m.-noon Ministry Projects*
3:30-4:30 p.m. Prayer & Share Celebration
5-6:15 Missions Banquet
6:30 Worship Celebration & Acts 1:8
Commissioning Service
Featuring: Dramatist: Laurita Miller

For info contact
the WMU
601-292-3319
or
1-800-748-1651.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Breakfast
8:45-10 Conferences
10:15 Worship Celebration & Business Session
Featuring: Mississippi Choctaw Women's Choir
1:00 p.m. Adjourn

*AMC 2005 Ministry Projects

One Person Giving One Day = One Changed Life

PrayerWalking, Ministry to the Military, New Church Starts, Acts of Kindness Ministry,
Minor Repairs/Painting, Community Outreach

During AMC 2005, you will have the opportunity to participate in ministry projects all across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Ministry Projects will be planned for Friday, April 8, from 8 a.m.-noon. There is no cost, but registration is required.



LAD/CRUSADER DAY

April 16

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

Cost: \$4

Bring a sack lunch (drink provided)

• Best Chapter Award

• RA Racers

• Show & Tell

• Speak-Out

• Mission Project/Banner Competition

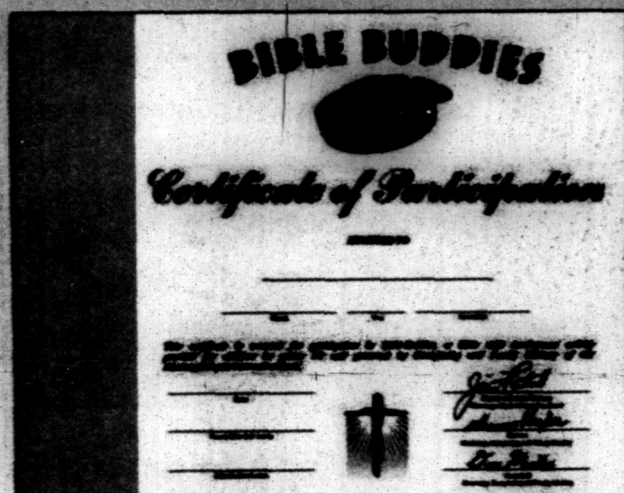
• Campcraft & Field Competition

Answer
Tell
Change

FOR INFO: Phone: 601-292-3335 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335

ATTENTION BIBLE DRILL LEADERS:

A certificate is now available for your Bible Buddies age group. To request certificates, please call the



Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284, or contact us by E-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.

2005 Preaching & Worship Conference

Monday, April 25, FBC, Biloxi
Tuesday, April 26, Highland Colony BC, Ridgeland

PASTORAL PREACHING

Featured Presenters

Frank Lewis

Blake Scafidel

For more info, contact Pastor/Leadership Development at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 7, 2005

in conjunction with
WMU Annual Missions Celebration



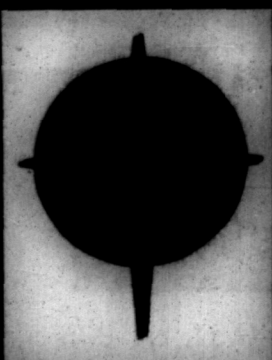
Where: Dogwood Hills Golf Course, Biloxi (located 6 miles north of I-10 on Hwy. 63; take the Woolmarket Exit.)

Cost: \$30, includes cart and green fee (proceeds will support the Gulf Coast Baptist Association Mobile Home Ministry)

Registration is from noon until 1 p.m. and tee time is 1 p.m.
Deadline to sign up is April 1. Please complete the form below and mail to Dionne Williams, Gulf Coast Baptist Association, PO 2369, Gulfport MS 39505.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____
(cell) _____
E-mail _____
Golfing Partners (optional) _____

Makes checks payable to Gulf Coast Baptist Association.



WMU Leaders: Get Prepared!

Learning to Be Christ Followers!

Plan Now!

Summer Mission Camps for Boys and Girls 2005

Central Hills Baptist Retreat *Celebrating Over 25 Years of Ministry*

SUMMER MISSION CAMPS

(grades 3-12)
\$130 per person
10 a.m. Monday - noon Friday
• June 20-24 • July 18-22
• June 27-July 1 • July 25-29
• July 11-15

LAD/DAD WEEKEND CAMPS

(grades 5K-3 and adult)
\$42.50 per person (\$85 for both)
June 24-25 • July 15-16
3 p.m. Friday - 3 p.m. Saturday

CHILDREN'S MISSION CAMPS FOR (COED)

(for boys and girls grades 1-6)
\$90 per person

June 13-15 - 10 a.m. Monday - noon Wednesday
June 16-18 - 10 a.m. Thursday - noon Saturday

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL CAMP FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

(grades 3-6/one adult chaperone per every seven children)
\$90 per person
July 7-9

1:30 p.m. Thursday - noon Saturday

BASKETBALL CAMPS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

\$60 per person
May 23-25 (girls)
May 25-27 (boys)

REGISTER NOW!



GA Mother Daughter Overnight April 15-16

"Daughters of the King"

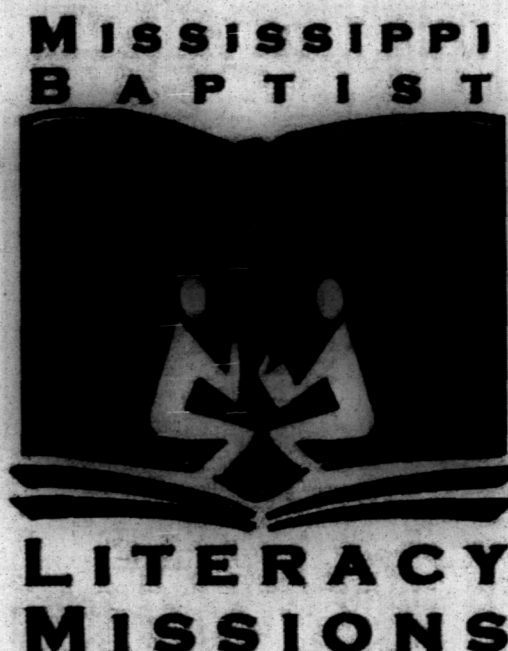
Cost \$35

Deadline to register: April 1

For info: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3319

Literacy Missions Ministry can assist churches and associations in scheduling a workshop and providing workshop leaders for:

- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Adult Reading and Writing (ARW)
- Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)
- Chronological Bible Storying (CBS)



Something new being offered: English as a Foreign Language (EFL) is designed for Christians preparing for a one-week to three-month mission trip to a non-English speaking country.

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKSHOP:

WHAT: English as a Second Language

WHEN: April 21-23, 2005

WHERE: First Baptist Church, Cleveland
101 North Bolivar Street
Cleveland, MS 38732

TIMES: Thursday & Friday – 6:00-9:30 p.m.
Saturday – 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

COST: \$25 (covers manual and meal)
\$5 (if you already have manual)

DEADLINE DATE TO REGISTER: APRIL 11, 2005

CONTACT PERSON:

Mrs. Emily Smith or Mrs. Barbara Kent
601-2701-1111 Office

CHECK: Payment should be made payable to First Baptist Church
and sent to the workshop on the memo line.

WORKSHOP LEADERS:

Mrs. Frances Rogers, Brandon, Miss.
Mrs. Laura Rogers, Brandon, Miss.



Guarding Against "Gumbo Gospel"

**Preschool/Children's
Ministers' Retreat**

May 5-6, 2005

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Topics to be covered:

- Biblical Worldview – Building a Foundation
- Parents Taking Back the Responsibility of Being Spiritual Leaders
- Tiers of Influence
- Who or What Influences Our Children
- Issues Facing Children

We are fortunate to have Paula Stringer and Donna Peavy as the featured speakers. They are both professors of Childhood Education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cost: \$25 for registration

Those staying at Patterson Place will be charged:

- Single room – \$40
- Double room – \$35 each
- Three in a room – \$30 each
- Four in a room – \$25 each

Registration Form
Deadline: April 21, 2005

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Church _____

Church Office Phone Number _____

Association _____

Position _____

_____ \$25 registration

_____ Check here if you would like a room at
Patterson Place.

_____ How many in a room?

Please make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and
mail to: Robin Keels, WMU, PO Box 530,
Jackson MS 39205-0530.



Pray this day for...

March 25-April 7, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." - Mother Teresa

Marvin Daniels, El Dorado, Kan., works with Samaritan's Road, a truck stop ministry in Newton, Kan. Pray for additional volunteers to aid in teaching Sunday School, and for many to be saved as this ministry meets the needs of people across the country.

Missionaries Tom and Beverly Gillespie ask: "Please pray for the churches in Mexico that have received the Training for Trainers (T4T). Pray for these churches to keep the vision and goal of training people who will, in turn, train others (2 Timothy 2:2)."

Pray for the national Christians who are planting churches in the outlying areas surrounding Lima, Peru. It seems that more of these areas pop up each day. Pray that God will provide for the needs of these faithful servants and that they will learn to trust Him more.

Many people living in Prague speak English, and desire to improve their English skills with the Czech Republic's entry into the European Union. Pray for the English-language ministries. Ask God to bless the relationships with students and to prepare their hearts to hear His Word and respond.

Please pray for Baptist representatives Steve and Celeste Brubaker as they begin prayerwalking the city of Chemnitz. Ask the Lord to open their eyes to physical and spiritual needs and provide them with "divine appointments" by leading them to "persons of peace" (Luke 10:6).

Joseph Tillery, Artesia, N.M., is the director of missions in Pecos Valley Association. Pray for the new congregation in Dexter, N.M. Praise God for the 100 people who accepted Jesus through out-reach feeding centers in 2004. Pray for partnerships that have been established with Brazil and Birmingham, England.

For: (1) Church Library Ministry Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 31st - 2nd (CS); (2) Pray for Lyndhurst Baptist Church, Johannesburg, South Africa. The church is growing in numbers, but the giving is not matching the financial needs of the church. Pray that the people will give their tithes so that the ministry can continue to grow.

For: (1) Young Minister's Retreat, Lake Tiak O'Khata; (2) Pray for the extended families of our missionaries. Many have elderly parents facing major health issues or major adjustments in living arrangements. Many have children in college in the U.S. who find it difficult without parents close by for advice or comfort.

An invitation to coffee, a visit in the home of an Arab in Morocco, and the new friend turns out to be a gifted artist. Later as a believer prays, asking God where to "invest" his time, God gives him a vision of the artist's work. God is drawing the artist to Himself. Ask for wisdom, boldness and fluent language as the believer shares.

Please pray for missionaries Marilyn and Sam Upton, who have lived and served in Lilongwe, Malawi, for over 30 years. They will be moving to Harare, Zimbabwe, this month to continue their service for the Central, Eastern and Southern Africa region. Pray for wisdom, discernment and strength for these two.

For: (1) State Ministry Assistants' Conference, Camp Garaywa (P/LD); (2) Third Annual 2-Man Scramble State Championship Ministers' Golf Tournament, Lake Caroline Golf Club, Madison (CAC); (3) Pray for President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia (north-western South America).

For: (1) Bible Drills: FBC, McComb; Emmanuel BC, Grenada (D&FM); (2) Dwight and Judy Huffman serve in church planting in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. Pray for efforts to start churches in remote areas where there is no evangelical witness. Pray for Dwight's safety as he travels thousands of miles each year.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 6th-8th; (2) Several Christian Arabs of Yemen have recently experienced some intense persecution for their faith, also others who were on their way to Jesus received the same treatment. Pray for wisdom and discernment not just for those who already know Christ, but also for those being drawn to Him.

For: (1) Bible Drills: FBC, Tupelo; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) Todd Wood is resort missionary and director of Intracoastal Outreach in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Pray for more local churches to become involved in mission work. Pray for spiritual accountability partners for both Todd and Amy.

Send the Word



Photo by Erica Harms

Our goal is for \$50,000 for the "Send the Word Project."

Please detach and send to the Missions Mobilization Department, MBCB, at PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

Church Name: _____

Association: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount: _____

"How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!'"

Romans 10:14-15

There is a window of opportunity to flood Southeast Asia with the love of Christ through the combination of meeting their immediate physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Will you join us in sending the Good News to the uttermost ends of the earth. You can provide a Bible for only \$4 to a child in need. The Missions Mobilization, Sunday School, and wMu departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board encourage you to send your Vacation Bible School offering to the "Send the Word" project. Checks may be designated to "Send the World-VBS" in order for us to send Bibles into some of the most unreached areas of the world. If every child participating in VBS sends their pocket change, we believe that God can multiply the funds to send his Word throughout the nations.



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. 7th Annual RA Race-Off, Pike Association



10. **First Church, Summit**, held the seventh annual Pike County Association RA Racer Race-Off with forty-three Crusaders and forty-six Lads. Shown above are the award-winning participants.

11. **Canaan Church, Columbus**, sent a team of missionaries to Honduras during the week of Feb. 20 where they built a house for a family and ministered to a mission school. Shown is the team represented by Canaan Church, Kolola Springs Church, and New Salem Church, all of the Golden Triangle Association.

12. **Canaan Church, Columbus**, held a note burning celebration on March 13. Shown surrounded by present and former deacons of the church are Bill Robinson, Jim McConnell (burner) and M.T. Taggart.



11. Honduras Mission Trip, Canaan Church, Columbus

15. Johnny Lollar, pastor of **Reed's Chapel Church, Webster Association**, presented Joshua O'Neal Buford a license to the ministry on December 14. Buford received the calling while attending a Christian camp called The Walk to Emmaus in March 2004. Shown are Lollar and Buford.

16. Curt Hale was ordained to the gospel ministry at **First Church, Summit**. Shown are Roe, Noel, and Curt Hale; Jerry Barlow; and Dan Lewman.

17. The GAs of **Branch Church, Morton**, collected food items for the crisis center of Forest. Shown are Britney Shoemaker, Victoria Shoemaker, Karleigh Mahaffey, Olivia Lampkin, Kay Purcell, Tiffany Strickland, and Lauren Beemon.



17. GAs, Branch Church, Morton

STAFF CHANGES



Belser Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, welcomes Gregory E. Belser as pastor. Belser was born in 1957 in Dallas, Tex. He is married to the former Susan Swinnea, and they have three daughters: Lindsay, Ashley, and Bethany. Belser's first Sunday in the pulpit will be April 3.



Roberson Shady Grove Church, Panola County, has called Gary Roberson as pastor. He received his education from Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Seminary, Liberty University, and Southwestern Seminary. He came from Midway Church, Calhoun County, and comes with his wife, Gina and their three children.



12. Noteburning Celebration, Canaan Church, Columbus



13. Central Hills Retreat, Sunrise Church, Carthage



14. Mission Trip, Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn



15. Ordination of Buford, Reed's Chapel Church, Webster Assn.



16. Ordination of Hale, First Church, Summit

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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TDC QBAD WBTEE QBAN
WAA QBA WFD FX JTD
MFJZDK ZD T MEFS
GZQB RFGAO TDC
KOATQ KEFON.

ESIA QGADQN-FDA:

QGADQN-WAPAD

Clue: E = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Twelve:Seven

HOSPICE CHAPLAIN: UNITY HOSPICE CARE

Growing, progressive hospice organization with a strong commitment to its patients and staff, seeks a Chaplain for Oxford, Batesville, and the surrounding areas. The Chaplain will provide spiritual support to hospice patients and their families. M.Div. strongly preferred along with experience ministering to those facing life threatening illness and death. Interested candidates should email resume to netapply@unityhospicecare.org.



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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

1. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) will roll out the red carpet for extension center students May 23-27, combining necessary on-campus credit for students. NOBTS will greet extension students with a special chapel service, a free red beans and rice dinner on Monday, a free seafood buffet Thursday, and student wives events and special recreation events. For more information, visit www.nobts.edu/RedCarpet or call (800) NOBTS-01.
2. Members of the Blue Mountain College (BMC) basketball team were recognized by the TranSouth Athletic Conference for their academic and athletic achievements during the 2004-2005 season. Shown, from left, are Amber Hughes, Sheree McDowell, and Katie White.
3. Blue Mountain College's Ministerial Alumni Association will meet Apr. 1, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Paschal Student Union Building. For more information, call (662) 685-4661 ext. 179 or e-mail rmeeks@bmc.edu.
4. Blue Mountain College's Office of Admissions is hosting a special weekend Apr. 1-2 for men who are contemplating a call into some type of church-related vocation. For more information, contact Gary Linville at (800) 235-0136 or garyl@bmc.edu.
5. The Mississippi College School of Law's Christian Legal Society participates in a service project at the Crestview New Life Church with the Christian Legal Society's Attorney Chapter Mar. 14-19.



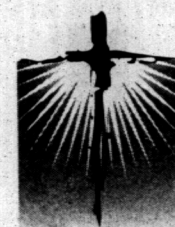
2. Hughes, McDowell, and White, Blue Mountain College

REVIVALS

Society Hill Church, Oakvale: Revival, April 3-6. Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Gene Douglas, evangelist; Len Cooke and Billy Paul Cooper, ministers of music; Tommy Broom, pastor. For more information, call (601) 792-2720.

Ebenezer Church, Lexington: Revival, April 3-6. Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Clarence Young, evangelist. Skipper Maxwell and Alisa Drake, music.

First Church, Edinburgh: Evangelistic Camp Meeting, Apr. 7-8. Old-fashioned Bible preaching conference; evangelists scheduled, but other preachers will be called on from the floor. Wills Family, Ft. Worth, Tex., music. Pastor, Bill Henry. For more information, call (601) 267-4250.

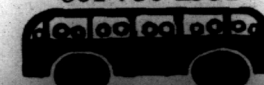


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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Our High Priest

Mark 16:1-7; Hebrews 7:23-28; 9:11-14

By Rick Henson

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, let us remember that His overcoming the grave is the centerpiece of our faith. Jesus arose from the dead after paying for our sins on the cross. His resurrection was the principal topic of the early church in the book of Acts. Jesus then ascended into heaven after forty days on earth, and took His place at the right hand of the throne of our heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:2).

One of our focal passages, **Hebrews 9:11** reads, "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come..." This passage among others refers to Jesus as our high priest. The Old Testament priests had four main functions: intercede between God and man; intercede between

man and God; teach the law; and lead in worship. Let us examine each and how Jesus is our high priest.

First, the Old Testament priests interceded between God and man. The priest offered sacrifices in obedience to God's instructions. Those priests daily offered sacrifices that could never remove sins, but Jesus offered Himself and permanently removed all sins. **Hebrews 7:24-27** reads "He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners... who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacri-



Henson

fice... for this he did once, when he offered up himself." Jesus paid once for all time for our sins. He is not only the priest, but the sacrifice as well. Through Him we can know God.

Second, the Old Testament priests interceded between man and God. Moses,

the first priest of the tribe of Levi, interceded for the Israelites and begged God's forgiveness (Numbers 14:12-19, Numbers 21:6-9). The first time was after Israel rejected the advice of Joshua and Caleb and listened to the ten unbelieving spies. The second time was after the people complained so much that God sent fiery serpents after them. Both times Moses asked God to spare the people of Israel. Both times God listened to the intercession of Moses. Jesus intercedes between man and God. Jesus is now our advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1-2). Not only can we know God through Jesus Christ; we also can com-

municate with God through Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 4:15-16** "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Through Him we can boldly come to the Father. Jesus intercedes between man and God.

Third, the Old Testament priests taught the law. Jeremiah 31:33-34 reads, "After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." This exciting passage tells us what Jesus did — He wrote God's law on

our hearts so that we may know the Father.

Fourth, the Old Testament priests lead in worship. **Hebrews 13:15** reads, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Our English word, "worship" comes from an old English phrase "worth-ship" which meant "worthy of service." Worship is far more than songs or choruses. Worship is our service to the Lord through His Son. Jesus taught in John 14:12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." Through Jesus Christ our High Priest we can serve the Lord. Our songs and our service are acceptable to God only through Jesus Christ. The Old Testament priesthood was a dim picture of what Christ would do. He is our High Priest.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Demonstrate Your Trust in God

Jeremiah 7:1-15

By Billie Buckley

One Easter morning I asked, "What does the empty tomb mean to you?" My class member's answer was a reflection of her life, "It means I can be filled."

A child's story also taught me about the meaning of Easter. A little girl was asked, "What were Jesus' first words when He came out of the tomb?" Jumping up she shouted, "The first thing He said was, TAA-DUMM!"

In our study today let's have a "taa-dumm" Easter celebration of our joyous filling, our story to tell to others, and our genuine time of confession of who He is: our Savior and Lord.

Early on, John declared his purpose for writing this gospel, "I give you Life. I give you Jesus." This resurrection story was not expected by his defeated followers. Certainly Mary's discovery at the empty tomb was a great surprise. This may come as a surprise to some, but God had a plan for our sin problem from the beginning of time. We may call it Easter.

Let's first celebrate our joyous filling (vv.19-20). Here we find the disciples behind closed and locked doors. They were filled with confusion, doubt, and fear. Certainly, there was no hope. Then Jesus came among them. He walked right in.



Buckley

They saw Him. They heard Him. These defeated disciples exchanged their empty souls for feelings of delight, rapture, and joy. No longer did they stand aloof. No longer did they reflect a passive ho-hum attitude. No longer afraid. Why? What turned their turmoil into rest? What settled them? What gave them an inward stillness?

He showed up. He stood among them. He spoke and His words quieted them, "Peace be with you." These words of peace and the sight of his wounded body produced great joy in the disciples.

What closed door do we stand behind today preventing us from celebrating with joy? We need to look up. Repeat after the disciples, "My Lord! My God!" Problem solved.

Let's continue and celebrate by telling the story (vv.21-23). Jesus put it this way, "As my

father has sent me, I am sending you to tell the story." Sometimes it's easy to show up and announce, "I'm here to tell the story."

There is a warning here, "Be sure and get the story right. Get it straight." How can we do this? Go to the Word. The Scripture is the revealed authority of God.

Now comes some good news. We have a helper, a tutor. We have the Holy Spirit. Our role is to assist Him in the work. We do this through our praying. By our mind-of-God prayers we move Satan back from the playing field of the lives of others so the Holy Spirit can have more room to work in them. Easter needs to be shared. Have you told the story today?

Finally, let's celebrate a genuine time of confession of who He is. He's our Savior and Lord (vv.24-29).

Do you doubt it? So did Thomas. Yet, Thomas' doubt was his first step of faith in and

toward Jesus. Looking closer at Thomas, we see he had to know for himself this truth. Interesting, but Jesus wasn't hard on Thomas because of his doubts. Can't you hear Thomas asking the other disciples, "What's going on?"

"Thomas," they excitedly told him, "We have seen the Lord."

"Are you sure? Unless I see Him, I will not believe."

One week later Thomas was with the disciples when Jesus came back and gave Thomas the truth for himself. Keep reading.

If we were to ask Thomas if he believed today ... let's do it.

"Thomas are you sure Jesus is who He said He was?"

"Friends," Thomas would say, "I'm sure. I saw Him with my very own eyes, and you can, too."

One final thought. We can be among the blessed, happy, and to be envied, because we have accepted Easter's invitation to life. RSVP today.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail. No attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

GuideStone seeks needy retirees; trustees tap Patterson of Miss.

DALLAS (BP) — GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (formerly the Annuity Board) has launched a concentrated effort to locate retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers, or widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs.

GuideStone trustees, meeting in early March, also elected William T. "Dale" Patterson of Jackson to a second term as chairman and Robert L. Sorrell of Tennessee as vice chairman.

"We are seeking the help of laypersons, pastors and associational directors of missions to aid us in finding individuals or couples who may not be aware that assistance is available to them," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a March 15 news release.

For more than 80 years, GuideStone has provided critical financial relief to thousands of retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers or their widows. "These dear people are often reluctant to ask for help. Our hope is they will see this as a way for their Southern Baptist family to honor their years of devoted service," Hawkins said.

Norma Friend, a widow receiving assistance from GuideStone's Adopt An Annuitant ministry, said, "Being approved for the Adopt An Annuitant program means so much more than receiving a check each month. It is a part of God's provision..."

John Ambra, GuideStone's director of endowment, said, "God's promise to provide for His faithful servants, and our opportunity to act on that promise, are at the heart of GuideStone's Adopt An Annuitant ministry."

Through the Adopt An Annuitant ministry, Norma and thousands like her receive "the precious gift of dignity from their Southern Baptist family," Hawkins said. "We need for local church members to be sensitive to the living conditions of aged ministers or their widows, and then to act if a need is discovered."

Assistance from the program is not limited to pastors or their widows. Any retiree age 65 or older with 10 or more years of paid Southern Baptist service is eligible to apply. Other eligibility guidelines include an income of less than \$1,250 per month for single applicants and less than \$1,665 per month for married applicants. Applicants also must have less than \$30,000 in assets, excluding their home.

Recipients must meet the eligibility guidelines and requalify for the assistance every two years. A widow/widower, married at least 10 years to an individual who would have met the qualifications, also is eligible to apply.

Qualified individuals receive \$200 a month and qualified couples receive \$265 a month. Depending on their situation, they may receive monthly support, a one-time grant or emergency assistance.

Anyone with knowledge of an individual or couple who may qualify is urged to call GuideStone's toll-free number, (800) 262-0511, or send an e-mail to adopt@GuideStone.org, and provide the possible candidate's name and address or request an application on their behalf.

Applications also are available on GuideStone's website, www.GuideStone.org, by selecting Adopt An Annuitant from

the menu bar and following the link to "Know someone in need?" and scrolling to the bottom of the page for the application and instructions.

With more than six million dollars paid out annually in assistance, the Adopt An Annuitant ministry relies on the gifts of churches and individuals. Almost \$1.4 million of the program's annual funds come from the SBC Cooperative Program. However, the majority of the funding, four to five million dollars, comes from the direct gifts of individuals, groups and churches.

Gifts of any size are accepted and are tax-deductible to the maximum allowed by law.

Hawkins told GuideStone trustees attending the early March meeting that the Southern Baptist agency's theme for 2005 is "the year of the second mile," drawn from Matthew 5:41.

Hawkins, in his president's report to trustees, said, "In order to go the second mile, you must go the first mile. The first mile is doing what is required, doing the job you are tasked to do. The second mile is doing more than what is required."

"While the first mile is motivated by law, the second mile is motivated by love. We have challenged every GuideStone employee to not only perform their duties with integrity and skill but to go the second mile whenever possible in assisting our participants."

John R. Jones, GuideStone's chief operating officer, reviewed with trustees the 2004 year from an operations perspective in entity's four program areas: investments, retirement, insurance, and endowment.

MS POSITIONS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Oak Forest Baptist Church is looking for a part-time financial secretary. Computer skills and financial training helpful. Resumes may be sent to personnel committee, Oak Forest Baptist Church, 2875 Oak Forest Drive, Jackson, MS 39212.

NEW CHRISTIAN DAYCARE SEEKS DIRECTOR, MS in education or child development field preferred, BS in related required. Experience in daycare management, excellent interpersonal skills, and organization skills essential. Send resumes to Country Woods Baptist Church, 6737 Siwell Road, Byram, MS 39272.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FULTON, MISS., is looking for a minister of education and youth. Bachelor's degree required, seminary degree preferred. Salary and benefits according to education and experience. If interested, please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 400, Fulton, MS 38843. Or call (662) 862-3207, or email twinders@nexband.com.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER: Griffith Memorial Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Preference will be given to mature

individuals with youth related ministry experience. Mail resume to Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, attn: youth minister search committee, 5275 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

GROWING CHURCH IN RAPIDLY GROWING COMMUNITY is seeking an Associate pastor of music and youth. Any men interested in this position may send a resume and video to Fairhaven Baptist Church, 5050 Katherine Dr., Olive Branch, MS 38654. Resumes may also be sent by email to fairhaven@centurytel.net.

CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Centreville, Miss., seeking an energetic full-time youth minister /associate pastor. He will work with our bivocational pastor to expand youth ministries and assist with pastoral duties. All interested persons should contact the youth search committee at cbcsect@canufly.net or mail resumes to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 428, Centreville, MS 39631.

CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Centreville, Miss., is currently seeking resumes for a part-time minister of music. Send resumes to Treva Reid, 1933 Cane Creek Road, Centreville, MS 39631 or email mtreid@telepak.net.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAYNESVILLE, LOUISIANA is seeking a full-time minister of music who would work with Education also. Haynesville is located in central north Louisiana. Our church aver-

ages 240 in Sunday school. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, attn: music/education search committee, 2021 Main Street, Haynesville, LA 71038.

FOR SALE: EIGHTEEN PASSENGER MINI BUS, 1988 Ford diesel, good condition. \$3,000, Cedar Haven Baptist Church, (662) 895-5603.

THE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY SEARCH COMMITTEE of Shelby Association (Alabama) seeks resumes of qualified candidates. Send resumes with cover letter by April 15 to search committee, c/o Allan Murphy, 4605 Burning Tree Lane, Pelham, AL 35124.

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FULL-TIME WORSHIP PASTOR needed. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, attn: Dan Glenn, 100 N. Hickory St., Vidalia, LA 71373. Or email worship@fbcvidalia.com.

LIVING FAITH MINISTRIES, an evangelist ministry specializing in revivals, fill in service, interim and youth. We are committed to bringing a fresh word from God that will change our lives. We believe that God has given us a word in due season for the body of Christ. Evangelist Steve Smith, contact at (601) 672-1862 or (601) 346-4476, www.stevesmithministries.org.

SALE: 1991 Ford 15 passenger van. Mileage 49 k, good condition, tires like new. Price is \$5,000 (negotiable). Call (601) 939-4766.

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